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Senate

The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, God, magnificent in mercy, plenteous in grace, and generous in love, strengthen our Senators for today's journey.

Lord, give them strong hearts and sound minds to do their ethical best in representing You. As they look to the future, provide them the wisdom to join their plans to Your purposes in order to accomplish Your work on Earth.

Lord, fill them with the spirit of hope that will make them positive people who are expecting Your best for our Nation and world.

We look to You with vibrant expectation that You can transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jonathan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ELECTION DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am going to start with a mask because it is a message to all of America: Vote. Today is voting day. Please vote. If you haven't voted already, make sure you vote.

JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

Mr. President, on a very related issue, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, last night, I took the necessary procedural steps to set up a vote on Wednesday in the Senate on the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Tomorrow, the Senate is going to take a first vote on whether or not we debate—merely debate—a bill to reinstate the preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act, which has long had bipartisan support in this Chamber—bipartisan support—in the past.

Our democracy relies on the guarantee of free and fair elections to survive, but across the country, we are witnessing a coordinated assault on the right to vote and even on how elections are conducted, tallied, and potentially decided—a true threat to the ultimate foundation of our democracy.

In the past, preclearance helped put a check on the worst abuses from the States, but a conservative majority on the Supreme Court in 2013, in one of the worst decisions in recent memory, effectively crippled preclearance, wrongly suggesting that it was no longer needed. We have seen how wrong that decision was in the years since 2013 and particularly now. Boy, were they wrong. In the years since that decision, the floodgates have opened for some of the most draconian restrictions to the franchise that we have seen since the era of segregation.

The clock is ticking for the Senate to stop these attacks. Starting next year, State legislatures will return to session, and many will surely build on the flurry of restrictive laws we are already seeing in States like Georgia and Texas. So if there is any issue that deserves debate in this Chamber, it should be protecting voting rights.

The Voting Rights Act has long enjoyed bipartisan support in this Chamber. Nixon, Reagan, and Bush all signed into law updates to the legislation. In

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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